GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4749
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
PROMOTION OF INTER-STATE WATER TRANSPORT
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering the need of promoting inter-State water transport in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the agreements arrived at the meeting of the inter-State water transport development council held in Delhi recently?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) The Government has already declared three national waterways namely
(i) the Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia passing through the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal,
(ii) the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya passing through the State of Assam and linking West Bengal through Indo-Bangladesh protocol routes and Sunderbans and
(iii) West Coast Canal in the State of Kerala. Basic infrastructural facilities namely navigational channel, navigational aids, and terminals are being provided in a phased manner by Inland Waterways Authority of India on these national waterways. Further, the following two inter-state river/ canal systems are being considered for declaration as National Waterways.

(i) Kakinada-Pondicherry canals integrated with Godavari and Krishna Rivers linking the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry and
(ii) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani River and Mahanadi delta linking the States of Orissa and West Bengal.

Government is also committed to promotion of coastal shipping as a viable mode of inter-state water transport. Towards this end, the following steps have already been taken :

(i) Coastal ships are exempted from light dues.

(ii) The vessel related charges for coastal vessels are not to exceed 60% of corresponding charges for other vessels. Similarly, cargo/container related charges for all coastal cargo/containers, other than thermal coal, POL including crude oil and iron ore & iron pellets are not to exceed 60% of normal cargo/container related charges.

(c) No such meeting has taken place in the recent past.